

IN THE TITLE:

Above the Title, please add:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the Title, please add:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of Austrian Patent Application Serial No. A 560//2001, filed 6 April 2001 and PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/AT 02/00079, filed 11 March 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before the 2nd paragraph, please add:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 3, delete the 2nd and 3rd full paragraphs as indicated:

~~Then, if the limit current is exceeded, the transistor— together with the monitoring circuit— begins to hold the output flow constant in order not to overload the feed source too much and thus provoke a crash of the entire system. The saturation state is left and as a result a high power dissipation is then carried out in the transistor, specifically in the extreme case short circuit current times feed voltage. Because the transistor, for example of the MOSFET type, has already been heated up during normal operation, the absorption~~

~~of the additional power loss in the limit state is problematic. On top of that, the limit state lasts a short period of time, for example 50 — 100 ms, then the disconnection occurs. In this short time, the heat cannot at all be passed on to a heat sink and therefore must be absorbed by the transistor chip.~~

~~In order to prevent destruction of the switching transistor before disconnection, transistors having very large chip surfaces must therefore be used, which results in high costs.~~

Substitute the deleted paragraphs with the following:

Then, if the limit current is exceeded, the transistor – together with the monitoring circuit – begins to hold the output flow constant in order not to overload the feed source too much and thus provoke a crash of the entire system. The saturation state is left and as a result a high power dissipation is then carried out in the transistor, specifically in the extreme case short circuit current times feed voltage. Because the transistor, for example of the MOSFET type, has already been heated up during normal operation, the absorption of the additional power loss in the limit state is problematic. On top of that, the limit state lasts a short period of time, for example 50 – 100 ms, then the disconnection occurs. In this short time, the heat cannot at all be passed on to a heat sink and therefore must be absorbed by the transistor chip. In order to prevent destruction of the switching transistor before disconnection, transistors having very large chip surfaces must therefore be used, which results in high costs.

A similar circuit emerges from German Patent 299 09 206 U1, which describes a protective device for a low-voltage current distribution system in which each circuit is

assigned its own circuit breaker having adjustable current limitation as short-circuit and/or overload protection. The break time of the individual switches may be affected by the longitudinal voltage across these switches.

United States Patent 5 969 514 describes a buck converter in which the otherwise typical single switching transistor is implemented using transistors that are connected in parallel with drain and source and are started or not started or triggered as a function of the level of output voltage. Cycled switching transistors are always present in this case; however, the set of problems involving a disconnect fuse, which in principle is only switched on or off, is not present.

On page 5, before the first full paragraph, please add:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, before the second full paragraph, please add:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION